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NBA FINALS: LEBRON VS. KD {page 16}

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RIKARD LARMA/METRO

▶ Upper Darby man gunned down in open courtyard of Northern Liberties complex ▶ Residents shocked murder could occur outside their balconies {page 02}

PYT MURDER ROCKS PIAZZA AT SCHMIDT'S

▶ Things were back to normal by 1 p.m. yesterday, about 13 hours after the shooting occurred. Private security locked down the piazza earlier in the day.

News

Accuser: I was like 'girlfriend' to Sandusky

▶ Testimony from 28-year-old alleged victim follows case's opening ▶ Sandusky lawyer: He loved kids so much {page 04}

The power of goodbye

One author explores the benefits that come when something ends {page 11}

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Piazza residents join rest of city rocked by murders

Workers at popular Northern Liberties apartments say murder shouldn't surprise residents there One resident: I thought it could be 'fireworks'

RIKARD LARMA/METRO

▶ The Piazza at Schmidt's gives many residents there an insular feeling from the rest of Philadelphia.

Police are investigating a shooting that happened early yesterday morning in front of the popular Northern Liberties bar and restaurant PYT.

Investigators said an argument erupted inside the bar and spilled into the courtyard shortly after midnight, when one man shot another man three times in the chest and groin. The victim, who sources identified as 24-year-old Maurice Kimble of Upper Darby, died a couple hours later.

Residents and workers at The Piazza offered conflicting descriptions of the neighborhood yesterday morning, telling what amounts to a tale of two cities.

"I heard a bang last night but kind of ignored it," said one renter, who asked that her name not be used. "There are fireworks that go off at various times and trucks that come through, so I didn't think much of it."

She said that while crime is not unheard of in the area – "I know this neighborhood only recently became gentrified," she noted — the fact that the shooting occurred inside the courtyard surprised her.

But employees told a different story. "I work at The Piazza and walk waitresses to the parking lot at night," said Jesse Deczynski, who works at a Piazza business. "This makes me scared for them."

"When I worked at Darling's (Diner at the complex) overnight, I used to see a lot of fistfights, food fighting and sexual interactions at The Piazza," a nearby kitchen worker said. "But a shooting? Never. Now that I think about it, it was bound to happen."

Bart Blatstein, who developed the apartment complex, did not return calls for comment.

Murder again at The Piazza

Formerly the site of an industrial complex, The Piazza has been directly linked to several high profile homicides since developer Bart Blatstein renovated the location into an open air plaza in 2009.

Event planner Rian Thal was killed in the hallway of The Residences at The Piazza three years ago and a jury last month convicted Donte Johnson for the 2010 strangulation death of PYT waitress Sabina O'Donnell, whose body was found less than a half mile away.

"It's like a little gated community in the middle of the city," said a Piazza building worker, who declined to give his identity for fear of his job. "People here don't go outside these walls. They don't think anything can happen to them, but crime is everywhere."

METRO/AW

"It does get crazy during the night and attracts all types of riffraff. It's Philly and it's getting hot out. People are getting hot and bothered and they don't know how to act. Things like this happen all over the city – it could happen anywhere."

A KITCHEN WORKER AT A RESTAURANT NEARBY THE PIAZZA

Kimble's past

Kimble, who would have turned 25 in about two weeks, was due in court on July 18 to face charges of aggravated assault and reckless endangerment following an arrest in November, according to court documents.

- He was also accused of violating the probation handed down to him in a separate case five years ago.
- In that incident, Kimble was charged with criminal conspiracy to commit robbery inflicting serious bodily injury, theft, assault, reckless endangerment and firearms offenses. He pleaded guilty to robbery with the threat of immediate serious injury and was sentenced to a two- to four-year prison term and four years of probation.

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WRITE TO METRO:
LETTERS@METRO.US

In the news

Soccer coach guilty

A former girl's soccer coach from Mayfair has been sentenced to 12 1/2 to 25 years for child molestation and possession of child pornography. Vincent Mickle, 35, pleaded guilty a year ago to using social media to lure teenage girls into sexual relationships. Prosecutors said Mickle had the girls send him nude photos and gave them alcohol. He had sex with a 16-year-old in 2009. METRO

In the news

Buzz radio

Pulitzer-prize winning author and pundit Buzz Bissinger will join Talk Radio 1210 WPHT as the host of their afternoon-drive slot starting June 25, the station announced. His show will air from 3-7 p.m. with Steve Martorano. Michael Smerconish will move from 3 p.m. to noon, replacing provocative pundit Rush Limbaugh. METRO

▶ Casey

SEPTA GM asks for charity

CITY HALL. The second week of SEPTA's "Stop at Hunger at Your Station" for Philabundance kicked off yesterday and SEPTA general manager Joe Casey asked riders to finish the annual food drive with a bang.

"Summer is just days away and with its arrival, thousands of children will miss the nourishing meals they receive during the school year," he said. "Hunger doesn't take a vacation. The fourth annual SEPTA's Stop Hunger at Your Station food drive is a chance for everyone to help." METRO

Council mulls requiring smoke detectors

CITY HALL. Councilman Curtis Jones Jr. held a hearing yesterday to push for tougher regulations on battery-powered smoke detectors.

Under the proposed legislation, smoke alarms in one and two-family homes must be equipped with 10-year batteries that are sealed. METRO

Camden-Philly ferry shut down

NEW JERSEY. The RiverLink Ferry which takes passengers from Penn's Landing to Camden's Adventure Aquarium could be out of service for a few days.

The Delaware River Port Authority said repairs must be made to a malfunctioning radar system. A spokesman said they hope the ride will be running again by midweek. METRO

Too warm, sunny for schools to stay open?

Philadelphia School District officials are defending their decision to close schools early yesterday due to heat.

The district announced Sunday that schools would close at noon yesterday and that after-school activities and programs would be canceled. The announcement claimed temperatures were expected to be in the upper 90s, but the highest it reached yesterday was 84 degrees at 2 p.m., with a heat index of 87.

District spokesman Fernando Gallard said the projected temperature was a mistake, but the district stands by its decision to close early.

"It's all driven by the forecast. If the forecast allows us to make the decision earlier we will," Gallard said when asked why the district made the call a day in advance. He said they were expecting it to be "around 85 [degrees] and humidity."

▶ School's out for summer?

RICARD LARMA/METRO

Quoted

"Since they were closed over the weekend, if you have high [temperatures] over the weekend, they retain the heat." GALLARD

About 80 percent of the district's facilities do not have air-conditioning, Gallard said. "Since they were closed over the weekend, if you have high [temperatures] over the weekend, they retain the heat."

Comments on the websites of media outlets reporting the early closures were mixed, with some suggesting the move was to save money. The district has a $218 million deficit and plans to close dozens of facilities next year to save an estimated $33 million annually.

Gallard said he did not know if closing the buildings early saved money, but noted "that's not the driving factor here."

He said the early closure is not expected to affect the last day of school, which is next Thursday.

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Witness accuses Sandusky of sex abuse as trial starts

Former Penn State defensive coordinator branded as 'predatory pedophile' Could face 500-year sentence

PATRICK SMITH/GETTY IMAGES

▶ Former Penn State assistant football coach Jerry Sandusky walks into the Centre County Courthouse before the first day of his child sex abuse trial yesterday, in Bellefonte, Pa.

The first witness called in the Jerry Sandusky child sex abuse trial testified yesterday that the former Penn State assistant football coach treated him like "his girlfriend" when he was a young teenager, showering together and engaging in oral sex.

The testimony by the 28-year-old man came after jurors heard opening statements from prosecutors and the defense as the closely watched trial got under way in Pennsylvania.

52

Sandusky faces 52 counts of sexual abuse against 10 boys.

The prosecution branded the 68-year-old Sandusky a "predatory pedophile" and said his young victims remained silent only out of fear and shame. Defense lawyer Joe Amendola told the seven women and five men of the jury that Sandusky was a naive man filled with love and affection for young people.

"Jerry Sandusky, in my opinion, loves kids so much he does things that none of us would ever think of doing," Amendola said.

Sandusky faces 52 counts of sexual abuse against 10 boys. If convicted, the former Penn State football defensive coordinator could be sentenced to more than 500 years in prison.

The opening witness called by prosecutors told jurors he met Sandusky when he was 13 years old, in 1996 or 1997. He said his relationship with Sandusky evolved from showering together after workouts at Pennsylvania State University facilities to the coach putting his hand on his leg while driving in a car and then oral sex, as well as being lavished with gifts.

"It was basically like I was his girlfriend. It was the way I would treat my girlfriend," the man testified.

A handwritten letter allegedly sent by Sandusky to this witness was placed into evidence yesterday. "I know that I have made my share of mistakes," it read. "There has been love in my heart. My wish is that you care and have love in your heart."

Sandusky is accused of using the Second Mile, a charity he founded in 1977, to prey on needy young boys. **REUTERS**

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Europe bailout taking its toll on US markets

U.S. stocks fell yesterday as Europe's aid package for Spanish banks did little to alleviate investor concerns about the region's finances and the slowdown in the wider global economy.

Spanish bond yields rose as a bailout of up to $125 billion for the country's struggling banks failed to quell concerns that Madrid may be locked out of funding markets and forced to seek external help. Some were also concerned that the new debt would subordinate existing bond holders.

"This is a realization that Spain, while providing money for its banks, is going to add to its debt-to-GDP ratio, and it's going to potentially subordinate some of the current Spanish sovereign debt, which does not make those bond-holders happy," said Paul Zemsky, head of asset allocation at ING Investment Management.

"They're borrowing more money, not doing anything about growth," Zemsky said. "Today we're not worried about Spain's banking system falling off a cliff, but other than that, nothing has changed."

Investors fear a crisis in Spain would compound the currency bloc's troubles before June 17 elections in Greece, which many think could lead to Greece's exit from the euro zone.

The worries come at a time when economies the world over are showing signs of slowing. China's inflation, industrial output and retail sales all flagged in May. It was the second straight month of sluggish growth. **REUTERS**

PABLO BLAZQUEZ DOMINGUEZ/GETTY IMAGES

▶ Protesters shout slogans against labor reform and the bailout at Puerta del Sol Square in Madrid, Spain.

Greek see a light

The friendly terms of an international rescue for Spain have encouraged Greek politicians to believe they can extract a better deal from creditors.

In Greece, the radical, leftist SYRIZA party seized on the lenient Spanish bailout as evidence that austerity measures demanded of Athens in return for a European financial rescue plan had failed.

"Since more countries are in the game, it's good for us because we will have the grounds to negotiate over better terms," said Eleni Karakoussi, 31, who said she intended to vote for SYRIZA.

Report: Dad's housework worth less than mom's

NEW YORK. Fathers of America, you may consider yourselves indispensable, but a new survey says you're only worth about one-third as much as mom around the house.

In fact, you are not even keeping up with inflation.

Insurance news and data website Insure.com released its annual Father's Day Index yesterday, an attempt to calculate the value in wage terms of the work a father typically does around the house.

The value this year was some $20,248, about $1,000 less than the inflation-adjusted value of 10 years ago.

By comparison, the website calculated a typical mother's household work at $60,182 — nearly three times greater.

$.77 Research shows women make less than men for doing the same hours at the same jobs — 77 cents on the dollar, on average.

The website matched government wage data to 13 different fatherly household tasks to calculate the index. Among the jobs were barbecuing (matched to the U.S. Department of Labor's "cooks, all other"), killing spiders ("pest control workers") and mowing the lawn ("grounds maintenance workers"). **REUTERS**

Russia cracks down, raids rival leaders

MOSCOW. Russian police raided opposition leaders' homes yesterday and summoned them for questioning, disrupting plans for a protest against President Vladimir Putin and suggesting he has lost patience with unrest. The early morning searches were an aggressive turn after months of opposition demonstrations. **REUTERS**

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New scientific research award helps weed out the goose eggs

The Golden Goose Awards can help direct tax dollars to research most likely to pay off, from chemistry to neuroscience ◗ Project has received bipartisan support

In these days of tight government budgets, scientific research — much of it done at large universities — is under attack by belt-tightening politicians. Critics think that limited tax dollars should be spent on projects with clear payoffs.

"It's easy to be critical and hard to see the long-term implications," says Steve Fluharty, senior vice provost for research at the University of Pennsylvania. "Research grants are low-hanging fruit."

He's excited about a new opportunity to highlight scientific work with valuable payoffs, as a member of a committee awarding Golden Goose Awards, which will be given to "projects with a good ROI that have a positive scientific, societal or economic impact," he explains.

Scientific associations, funding agencies and universities will nominate projects that have turned out to have significant long-term impact. "The success of any research has some unpredictability," says Fluharty, "but some discoveries can transform our understanding of life processes, energy, etc."

The eight members of the committee represent a variety of disciplines, including molecular biology, materials science, medicine and surgery, chemistry and physics, as well as Flaherty's own field, neuroscience.

The Golden Goose awards are the brainchild of Sen. Jim Cooper, a Democrat from Tennessee, and the project has gotten bipartisan support. "This is critically important at this time, as we face unprecedented cuts in funding for research," Fluharty says.

JUDY WEIGHTMAN
judy.weightman@metro.us

STOCKBYTE

▶ "The success of any research has some unpredictability, but some discoveries can transform our understanding of life processes," says Steve Fluharty, inset.

Why study the sex lives of worms?

The award is named with a nod to the Golden Fleece Awards, which the late Sen. William Proxmire gave to highlight what he regarded as silly research.

One of Proxmire's Golden Fleeces went to scientists researching the sex life of screwworms. It turns out that the screwworm is a deadly cattle pest, and the research ultimately saved the American cattle industry billions of dollars. Sen. Proxmire eventually apologized for calling the research a waste of money.

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Education in brief

Rutgers' statement on Rowan merge

On June 6, the board of trustees and the board of governors of Rutgers issued a statement of principles affirming their commitment to maintaining the Rutgers identity of all campuses. This is in opposition to Gov. Christie's intention to merge Rutgers-Camden with Rowan University and the new Cooper Hospital Medical School.

The combined boards voted to maintain the autonomy and independence of each campus, while being open to a collaborative relationship with Rowan.

In an email to members of the Rutgers-Camden community, Chancellor Wendell Pritchett wrote: "During the coming weeks, I will work closely with all stakeholders to refine the proposal. ... [It] will be of great importance to more clearly define the powers of the Rutgers-Camden/Rowan partnership to ensure that Rutgers-Camden is protected and that its resources cannot be allocated elsewhere. Through this partnership, we will be able to grow new joint programs, particularly in the health sciences."

New employment workshops at Drexel

Drexel University's Goodwin College is offering employment workshops for adults, including those who want to change fields. The workshops are free with a $25 registration fee ($75 for all five workshops).

The five topics are:
- Identifying Your Job Transferable Skills
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- Entrepreneurship: Thinking Like A Business Person

For more information, visit www.goodwin.drexel.edu/ae/prof_career.php

New Chair at Chestnut Hill

The board of directors of Chestnut Hill College have elected Margaret Carney McCaffery, M.Ed., Class of 1977, as their new chairperson, effective September 2012. McCaffery is only the second chair who is not a sister in the Order of St. Joseph. She has been on the board for the last six years, serving as chair of the development committee for the last four years. She also served on the enrollment management and student life committees.

JUDY WEIGHTMAN

▶ Margaret Carney McCaffery, center, was unanimously elected chair of the board of directors at Chestnut Hill.

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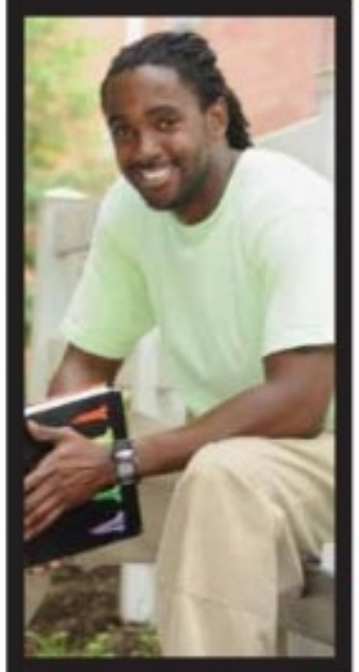
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THE WORD

Metro's **Monica Weymouth** shares her take on the world of gossip @monicaatmetro monica.weymouth@metro.us

Brand is going for this look, thank you

PHOTOS: GETTY IMAGES

▶ Brand might have to lose the aviators for his next role.

He was on home turf and brought his mom as a date, but even still, **Russell Brand** couldn't catch a break at the London premiere of "Rock of Ages." While the comedian walked the red carpet for his new film, fans yelled that he looked like "Jesus" and a "homeless person."

Brand — like most people confined to skin-tight jeans and ornamental cowboy boots — didn't risk getting in a fight, instead taking it as a compliment. "I'd like to play Jesus, and wasn't he homeless for a while too?" he answered, according to U.K. newspaper The Mirror.

He also admitted that his role as a rocker with a wild streak wasn't that much of a stretch. "When I was lying on the toilet floor, I thought, 'Hello, here we are again on my own,'" says Brand, who struggled publicly with drugs and alcohol before sobering up.

Cruise on rocking out

While Brand essentially plays some version of himself in "Rock of Ages," professional pretty boy **Tom Cruise** spent a little more time in the makeup chair getting into character, and it freaked out daughter **Suri**.

"When I had the eyeliner and the painted nails, [Suri] was a little taken aback by it," the actor told **Ryan Seacrest** on his radio show yesterday morning. "She was like, 'What's happening to my dad?'"

Poor kid! This image is right up there with drunk, homeless Jesus.

The feed ...

▶ Checking in with some of Hollywood's biggest names to see what they've been up to — in their own words, in 140 characters or fewer.

@nicolerichie
My cat wants to drop her last name and only go by "Gypsy", that egotistical bitch

@_juliannemoore
I am never listening to my dog about the NBA again.

@SethMacFarlane
From now on, songs are no longer allowed to use the words "baby" or "yeah".

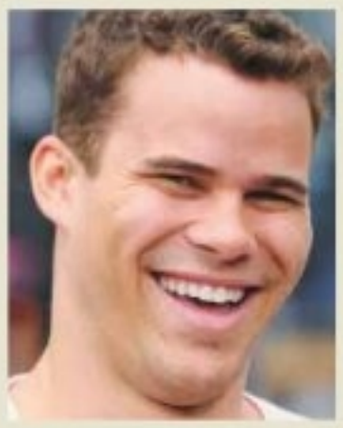
Lohan may face lawsuit

Not surprisingly, the truck driver involved in a car crash with **Lindsay Lohan** over the weekend has hired a lawyer.

According to TMZ, he claims he saw a doctor on Sunday but would not disclose the injuries he suffered after the actress slammed into the back of his 18-wheeler.

We get that it's not easy to give Lindsay a break (especially on a slow news day), but come on — her pocket-size Porsche is in the same league as a chubby rollerblader.

Humphries meets his match



Kris Humphries is meeting with the FBI this week to discuss texts and e-mails from his not-girlfriend, **Myla Sinanaj**, reports RadarOnline. The former Mr. Kardashian believes Sinanaj is attempting to extort him after a casual relationship ended.

"Myla is truly acting like woman scorned. She didn't get what she wanted from Kris and threatened to go to the press and ruin him if he didn't pay her off," a source tells the site. "Kris had to go to the FBI because he truly believes that she is capable of making up crazy lies about him. Kris will fully cooperate with the FBI and do anything that is asked of him."

Wait — this girl wants money and publicity from him after a short, questionable relationship? Kris, this might be as close as you get to a soul mate.

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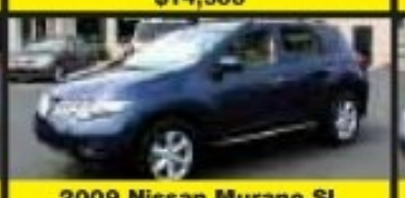

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▶ Lawrence-Lightfoot reads tonight at 7:30 at Central Library (1901 Vine Street).

Lawrence-Lightfoot closes a book about closing the book

During recent public and radio appearances, audiences haven't interrogated Sarah Lawrence-Lightfoot about her latest book, "Exit: The Endings That Set Us Free," so much as offered their confessions to the Harvard sociology professor. The author's latest is a collection of intimate interviews with people from all walks of life, all of whom discuss longing, leaving and letting go, and Lawrence-Lightfoot claims that even at cocktail parties, people feel compelled to share their stories of exit. Without pretension but with pride, she says the book provokes that. "When people bring the book to have me sign it, the lines take forever because everyone has to tell their story," she laughs. "They're telling stories that are particular to them but obviously universal — about the death of a parent or a child, losing work, divorce, bullying."

In what could be an infinitely long book on the topic of finality, Lawrence-Lightfoot narrowed four dozen stories down to 11, according to "which held the most poignancy, particularly as they were paired one with the other and [those that], if we look through the lens of exit, allowed us to see some fundamental human experience differently." She breaks down the encounters with her subjects — a gay activist, an Iranian ex-pat and a former priest, to name a few — into six categories: tales of finding and embracing our home, voice, freedom, wounds, yearning and grace.

These abstract ideas, which seem more in line with a self-help manual than a sociological survey, become solidified in each of the storyteller's shared experiences. Lawrence-Lightfoot gleans wisdom from their exits, yet the book never solicits direct advice. "The lessons are embroidered [into the stories]," she contends. "They aren't presented as didactic prescriptions. They're presented as the insights of the protagonists." Additionally, she highlights the anchoring analogies her interviewees use to describe their complex exits — like "peeling an onion," "joining the dance," "a merry-go-round" — mnemonic tools that resonate in their simplicity.

But the aim of the narratives isn't only that we recall and compare past endings in our own lives; it's also to "reframe" how we perceive exits, to call attention to why it is that they've occurred before looking out for the next beginning. Lawrence-Lightfoot urges readers to attend to the moment of exit and "use [it] as a moment of reflection, as a moment of propulsion." Being purposeful and aware of how we make even the smallest ritual exits can be helpful "as we get ourselves prepared to make the larger exits in our lives."

GINA ANGELOTTI
gina.angelotti@metro.us

TV watch list

▶ "The Next Big Thing: NY"

ERIC LIEBOWITZ/ OXYGEN MEDIA

'The Next Big Thing: NY'

REALITY. The title of this new reality series refers to performance coach Trapper Felides shaping bright young stars. But considering the reality TV trend focused on delusional stage parents, we're guessing it's a bossy mom who's going to break out on this show. **Series premiere, 11 p.m., Oxygen**

'Thorne'

MINISERIES. David Morrissey will soon step into the iconic role of The Governor on "The Walking Dead." But get acquainted with the actor now as he plays a brooding detective whose skills are tested by a twisted serial killer. **8 p.m., Encore** ● AMBER RAY

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Unit 0170	Isaiah Samuel R. Barfield	Fan, Boxes, HandTruck	Unit 2251	Michelle Palmer	Sofa, Washing Machine, Bags
Unit 0188	Rosalind Miller	Bags, Boxes	Unit 3037	Joseph Hawdershell	Totes
Unit 1118	Christopher Brooks	Boxes, Bags, Radio	Unit 3048	Mauctara Sheriff	Refrigerators
Unit 1167	Veronique Sapp	Boxes, Beds, TV, Toys	Unit 3083	Veronica Sheriff	Lamps, Computer, AC
Unit 1211	Steven Alston	Toys, Books, Bags	Unit 3157	Wesley B. Jacobs	TV, Beds, Dresser
Unit 1214	Taisha Logan	Bags, Boxes, TV, Chairs	Unit 4028	George Myers	Tools, Ladder, Vacuum Cleaner
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Healthy eating

Grow your own

Founded in 2010 by environmentalist Kelly Meyer, the American Heart Association's Teaching Gardens teaches elementary school students the how and why of healthy eating. A 35-week curriculum guides students in the classroom and out. Outdoors, children learn how to plant and maintain a vegetable garden. Parents and school administrators can visit **www.heart.org/teachinggardens** to learn more before e-mailing **teachinggardens@heart.org** to begin the application process.

More of the do-it-yourself type? Burpee Home Gardens offers a free, comprehensive "I Can Grow" guide on its website (**www.burpeehomegardens.com**) with tips for starting and sustaining an edible garden for kids.

Plus, Burpee sponsors an "I Can Grow" contest each year for school or community gardens, with grand prize winners receiving up to 500 seedling plants and $2,500 in garden supplies and layout help from Burpee experts. Information about the 2013 program will be available this summer. MEREDITH ENGEL

GETTY IMAGES

▶ "[The award] helped us transform a blighted lot into a community asset that will foster young people's knowledge of the environment, gardening and healthy eating," says Grimaldi.

Philly's own Village of Arts and Humanities was recently selected as one of three grand-prize winners of Burpee Home Garden's "I Can Grow" Youth Garden Award. "The hundreds of seedlings jump-started PhillyEarth, our new Youth-Led Urban Farm project," says executive director Elizabeth Grimaldi.

Parenting

Gotcha, germs!

Keep your baby's environment as clean as possible during his or her first three months of life, when the immune system is still developing. Although your child's room may look spotless, some areas are germ havens. Athena Kourtis, M.D., author of "Keeping Your Child Healthy in a Germ-Filled World," offers insight on where to put in extra elbow grease.

Toys: A sick playmate can easily pass along a cold just by handling toys. If you know your baby's buddy was ill, be sure to wash the toys well.

The crib railings: Viruses can linger on surfaces for hours. When your baby or someone else in the family is sick with a cold or a stomach virus, use an antiseptic wipe on places your infant comes into contact with often, such as the railings.

The floor: To make sure dirt, pesticides and other residue aren't tracked in, keep shoes and pets out of your baby's bedroom, especially if he or she uses the floor for tummy time.

The doorknob and light switch: You probably touch both of these after changing your baby's diaper, so sanitize them daily with a wipe or a cleaner — and always wash your hands after touching a dirty diaper, or use hand sanitizer in a pinch. RACHEL MORRIS

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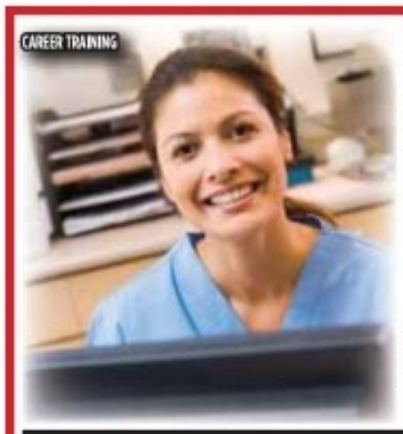

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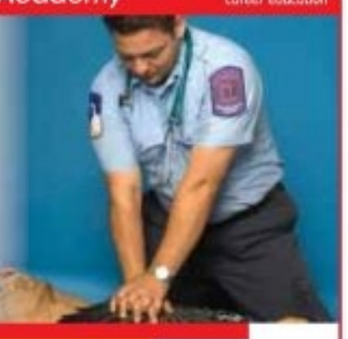

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Letters

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Everyone's invited to the party

RE: "PARTY LOYALTY SEEMS A BIT OUT OF WHACK": Since Joseph Connell misstated the Republican Party platform to make it seem like Leah Thompson's loyalty was poorly placed, let me correct a few things. First, the Republican Party wants lower taxes for everyone, not just "the top 0.1 percent." Did Mr. Connell forget that the Bush tax cuts that Obama extended were for everyone? Second, Republicans don't want to "end the social safety net," they want to change the entitlement programs to make them sustainable and reduce government waste and fraud in the social safety net. We don't have an endless supply of money to continue paying for the entitlement programs in their current form forever. Lastly, Republicans don't want companies "to poison and exploit our children." They want smart regulation, not over-regulation. Contrary to what some people believe, all regulation is not good regulation or even necessary. Even President Obama ordered a review of regulations on Jan. 18, 2011, to reduce "the costs of cumulative regulations." Mr. Connell, at least get the facts straight before trying to disparage someone for supporting the Republican party.

SAM KHOURY, VIA E-MAIL

Sweatin' to the old regimes

RE: "LIBERALS WANT US ALL IN SWEATSHOPS": I suspect Richie Tiemann is deliberately misunderstanding the point about sweatshops. No one in their right mind would work under those conditions, unless it was the only option besides starvation. Tragically, that's the choice facing much of the residents of many countries where Tiemann's preferred policies are in place. Tiemann's lack of empathy is appalling.

JOSEPH CONNELL, VIA E-MAIL

"The president finally said he supports gay marriage after all his time in office."

The fact of the matter is that merely supporting something verbally does not in itself change anything. Why do people fall for such rhetoric? Should one assume that words are all we need to further our causes?!

PETER MOLLE, LOWER BUCKS

Don't forget, Sunday is Father's Day

RE: "FATHERS NEED TO SUPPORT THEIR BABIES": This is in response to Cher Hearn's letter about fathers needing to support their babies. There are plenty of fathers who do take care of their kids. But it's also the case that some vindictive mothers deprive their kids' fathers from seeing or taking care of them. They claim they're the victim or the father walked out. Little does she know that some mothers dangle the kids and threaten the fathers. They say they can't see their kids if they don't get back together with them or they want more money for child support (the court takes 17 percent from the father's paycheck). The court thinks the mother is fit to take care of the kids.

YVETTE CASANOVA, VIA E-MAIL

E-mail your letters: letters@metro.us

Keep them as brief as possible, preferably under 100 words.
Metro reserves the right to edit all letters.
Please include your name and contact information.

Horoscope

♊ Gemini **May 21-June 20.** It behooves you to try to reduce your expenses when it comes to nonessential interests. If you really mean business, you won't make any purchases or commitments that you can't afford.

♋ Cancer **June 21-July 22.** Be able to determine the difference between aggressiveness and assertiveness. Attempting to bulldoze your way through situations that affect your career will only make matters worse.

♌ Leo **July 23-Aug. 22.** Don't be so quick to believe everything that you hear. Information that comes to you from questionable sources could be distorted or biased — or both.

♍ Virgo **Aug. 23-Sept. 22.** If you hope to profit in some manner at the expense of another, examine your motives and have one heck of a good reason. Operating along the wrong lines will derail you.

♎ Libra **Sept. 23-Oct. 23.** When in a partnership arrangement, have an understanding in advance as to who is responsible for what. Without any ground rules, the venture could veer off course.

♏ Scorpio **Oct. 24-Nov. 22.** Fail to approach your work in a positive manner and you'll make what you have to do much more difficult then it actually is. Make sure that every detail is covered, but smile.

♐ Sagittarius **Nov. 23-Dec. 21.** If you knowingly go against the odds, don't be surprised if you have to pay the consequences. Lady Luck isn't likely to be around when you need her the most.

♑ Capricorn **Dec. 22-Jan. 19.** Let sleeping dogs lie — and don't bring up any old, unresolved domestic issues when everyone is trying to relax. It could open Pandora's box.

♒ Aquarius **Jan. 20-Feb. 19.** Even if you think the criticism you're offering is very constructive, the recipient of your remarks might feel differently and deeply resent your input. Judge not, lest ye be judged.

♓ Pisces **Feb. 20-March 20.** Financial conditions are likely to be a mixed bag for you at this juncture.

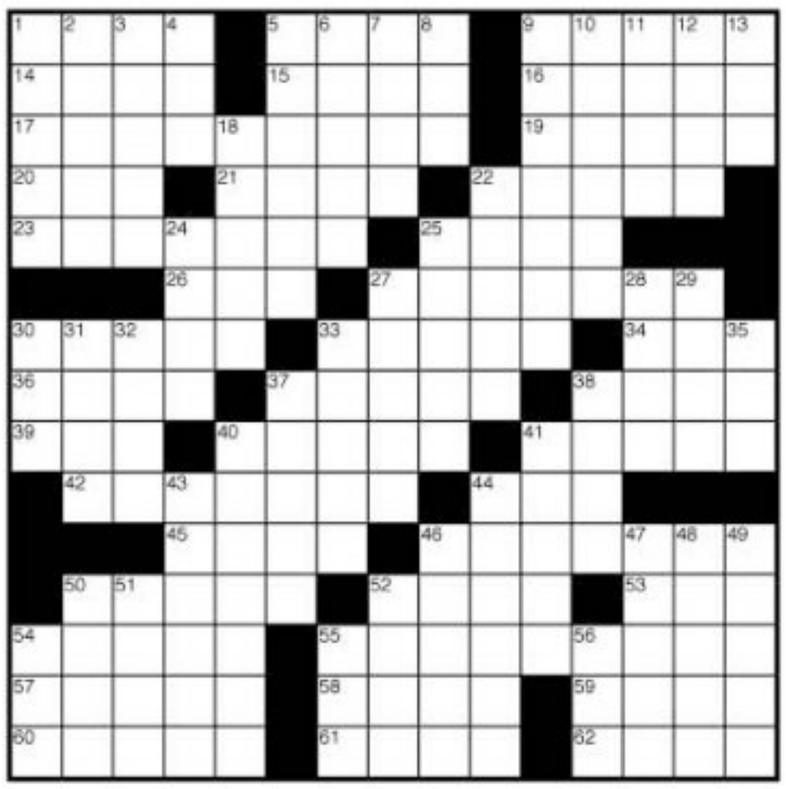
♈ Aries **March 21-April 19.** There is likely to be far too much outside interference for you to do your job as smoothly as you like. Throwing a fit won't solve a thing, but it can make matters worse.

♉ Taurus **April 20-May 20.** If you allow yourself to be influenced by past events, it could put a damper on fresh developments. Obsessing over yesterdays only inhibits new successes.

BERNICE BEDE OSOL

Across
1 Eye protector
5 Parroted
9 Spy mission
14 __ Khan
15 M, to Einstein
16 Band together
17 Cookout favorite
19 Italian poet
20 Cartoon squeal
21 Sheltered
22 Star-crossed teen
23 More wary
25 Curly-leafed veggie
26 "Addams Family" cousin
27 Exhibit
30 Blows gently
33 Mr. Nader
34 Gladiator's hello
36 Pennsylvania port
37 High-grades
38 Relieved sigh
39 Checkbook amt.
40 Tom Sawyer's aunt
41 Outmoded
42 Smooth talk
44 Free of
45 Sharp turns
46 Throb
50 Sink unclogger
52 Forbidden thing (hyph.)
53 T'ai __ ch'uan
54 Comforter
55 Under a spell
57 Home of a brave
58 Prayer ender
59 Solar plexus
60 Home finisher
61 __ d'oeuvres
62 1917 abdicator

Down
1 Price tag
2 See eye-to-eye
3 Fountain treat
4 Checkroom item
5 Talisman
6 Apple peeler
7 Latin I verb
8 Summer hrs.
9 Valentino of the silents
10 Glossy paint
11 Motion picture
12 Director __ Preminger
13 Bridal notice word
18 Sits tight
22 Rough files
24 Formality
25 Jean-Claude of the slopes
27 Flirt
28 Contented murmurs
29 First name in fashion
30 Place to surf
31 Sheik or sultan
32 Handle an order
33 Decides, as a jury
35 Wool producer
37 African river
38 Goalies' protection
40 Published
41 Cockpit occupant
43 Rhododendron relative
44 Dustups (hyph.)
46 Clout
47 Muscle complaints
48 Frat letter
49 Sea duck
50 Four-handed piano piece
51 Plump and juicy
52 Verne captain
54 Milk amts.
55 "__, humbug!"
56 PC monitor



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7	3	6		5		4		
8					3	5		
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		7		2		9		
	9		5	7		8		
		4	8					3
		8		1		6	4	5
9		1						

SUDOKU **LEVEL: EASY**

			7	4	1	5		
	5					8		
3		9	8					4
			5	2			9	
	3		6		9		4	
	8			1	7			
5					8	9		3
		3					6	
		6	1	3	4			

SUDOKU **LEVEL: HARD**

Solution to yesterday's crossword

How to play Sudoku: Fill in the grid so that every row, every column and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1-9. There is no math involved. You solve the puzzle with reasoning and logic.

SUDOKU SOLUTIONS: WWW.METRO.US/PUZZLES

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destinations

Georgia on my mind

Not the state in the South you're thinking of The Georgia on the other side of the world boasts a wealth of beautiful ancient cities and vineyards

Georgia is an undiscovered gem. As it's relatively small, it's easy to absorb its rich mix of history, culture, nature, adventure, food and wine in one trip.

The Georgian countryside is simply gorgeous. The massive snow-capped Caucasus Mountains along the northern border feed raging rivers that carve steep valleys, clothed in dense forests. In the summer, Georgia's mountains are a paradise for hikers, especially the Borjomi National Park, and the Kazbegi and Svaneti regions. There are routes for all abilities; some even challenge experts. The rivers have top-class white water rafting routes and there's also great horse riding, mountain biking and, in the winter, skiing and snowboarding.

Away from the mountains, the fertile eastern plains of Kakheti are planted thick with vines for Georgia's wines. Here, several vineyards offer wine tours and tastings, a wonderful insight into the oldest wine-making region in the world.

If it's city life you seek, then the capital, Tbilisi, will not disappoint: It's an easy-going capital that mixes modern and old, packed with monuments, museums, restaurants and bars. On the shores of the Black Sea sits Batumi, Georgia's charming seaside party-town.

The scenery is stunning and varied and the traditional food is delicious. Its fascinating history has left a treasure trove of monuments throughout the land. It is also friendly, safe and cheap: little wonder that Georgia is finally gaining a deserved reputation as a must-visit destination.

VANILLA SKY

▶ For more information, check out www.visitgeorgia.ge.

Travel tips

▶ **Homestays:** Outside of Tbilisi there are few hotels, but there are a wealth of homestays — private homes where the guests have their own room and are given meals by the host. The Georgian Tourist Office publishes a list of the best ones. **www.georgia.travel**

▶ **Fly to the mountains:** The most beautiful places in the Caucaus Mountains are often very remote. Treat yourself and fly instead. Vanilla Sky offers several aircraft and helicopter trips into the mountains. **www.vanillasky.ge**

Top 3: Ancient villages

1. **Ushguli:** Said to be the highest permanently settled village in Europe, it has more than 20 ancient Svan stone towers and is a UNESCO World Heritage Site.
2. **Mutso:** Hidden up a remote valley sit 30 fortified buildings clinging to the steep slopes of a narrow ridge. Although all now abandoned, the village and the views from it are spectacular.
3. **Vardzia:** The cave city of Vardzia was a religious settlement that once housed 2,000 monks in rooms carved out of the rockface. It covers 13 levels connected by stone steps with the Church of the Assumption at its center.

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7-Day Alaska $599* pp Fr. — Ocean View $749* pp Fr. / Balcony $1149* pp Fr.
10-Day Caribbean $709* pp Fr. — Ocean View $879* pp Fr. / Balcony $1099* pp Fr.

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3

Can't miss

Set the DVR
Here's the schedule for the Heat vs. Thunder in the NBA Finals (all games on ABC):

» Game 1, Today, Miami at OKC, 9 p.m.
» Game 2, Thursday, Miami at OKC, 9 p.m.
» Game 3, Sunday, OKC at Miami, 8 p.m.
» Game 4, June 19, OKC at Miami, 9 p.m.
» Game 5, June 21, OKC at Miami, 9 p.m.
» Game 6, June 24, Miami at OKC, 8 p.m.
» Game 7, June 26, Miami at OKC, 9 p.m.

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Key matchups

Kevin Durant vs. LeBron James
The scoop: They probably won't be matched up on defense as much as we'd like, but these two might be the top 2 players in the league. Both will score in bunches, but which one makes the biggest shots with the game on the line?

Serge Ibaka vs. Chris Bosh
The scoop: The best shot-blocker in the NBA versus maybe the most versatile low-post scorer. Ibaka is great at help defense, so Bosh should stick to his face-up game whenever possible. Don't bother playing the tough guy by going right at Ibaka. If Bosh sticks to his short jumper, he'll be fine.

Russell Westbrook vs. Mario Chalmers
The scoop: Two guys who came from the same draft class in 2008. There's a reason Westbrook was a high first-rounder and Chalmers went in the second. Chalmers will make a 3-pointer here and there, but Westbrook is capable of going for 30 with regularity.

Thabo Sefolosha vs. Dwyane Wade
The scoop: Sefolosha will have the sad duty of trying to guard Wade. Sefolosha is quickly becoming one of the NBA's best perimeter defenders. But D-Wade is a proven NBA champion.

OKC bench vs. Miami bench
The scoop: James Harden. James Harden. James Harden. How does Miami counter his production alone? It won't be easy. They'll need to get something out of Mike Miller and Shane Battier.

ON TV TODAY
Heat at Thunder, 9 p.m. (ABC)

WELCOME TO THE SHOW

Durant, James highlight what should be epic NBA Finals ◐ Pair played against each other in offseason ◐ Both looking for elusive, first NBA title

With all apologies to Boston and San Antonio, this is what everyone wanted. The fans. The commissioner. The players themselves.

"It's only right," LeBron James said of the Heat and Thunder meeting in the NBA Finals. "It's only right."

James is the NBA MVP, a three-time league MVP actually. On the other side stands Kevin Durant, a three-time scoring champion. They might be the two best basketball players in the world.

"It's not about Kevin and LeBron," said Thunder coach Scott Brooks. "Individually, they're the best players in the league. But it's always about the Thunder against the Heat."

Sorry, coach. Even if Durant and James don't guard each other often, this series is still very much about Kevin and LeBron.

The two imagined this day in the offseason, when they competed against one another in a four-day series of workouts that they dubbed "Hell Week." James and Durant walked away from that with a mutual respect. Now, they are set to meet again, on the biggest stage: the NBA Finals. Not even Martin Scorsese could have scripted this any better.

"I envisioned it every day we worked out," James said. "I understood what his [Durant's] passion was. I understood what his drive was."

James is the man everyone loves to hate. With his perceived cockiness and bravado, he'll be picked apart each time he disappears in the fourth quarter. Meanwhile, Durant enters as the fresh face, a player very much in tune with his surroundings. And representing a small market like Oklahoma City only adds to his likeability.

"The city is just so laid-back and quiet, and that's the type of person I am and it fits me well," Durant told reporters. "It's just a perfect place to be."

James and the Heat are invading that sleepy town tonight (9 p.m., ABC), in Game 1 of the NBA Finals. As the eyes and ears of the hoops world turn to Oklahoma City, expect a lot of things.

Just don't expect it to be quiet. METRO

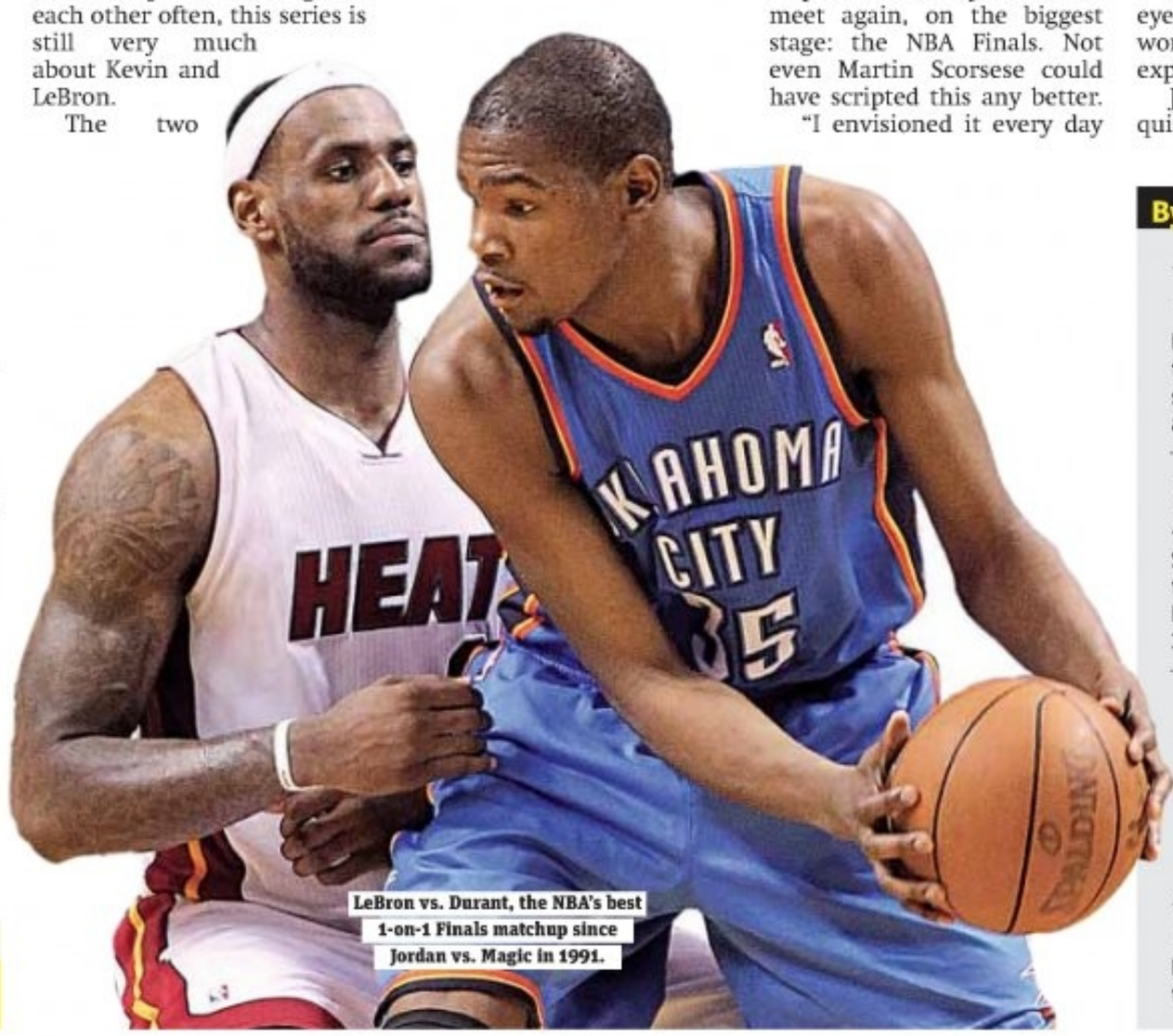
'Humbled' to be back in NBA Finals

LeBron James admitted yesterday that he let his teammates down last year. He averaged just 17.6 points against Dallas in the NBA Finals.

"I'm happy and I'm humbled that I can actually be back in this position less than 12 months later and to do a better job of making more plays on a bigger stage," James told reporters.

Quoted

"We didn't come here to win one championship ... not two, not three, not four, not five, not six, not seven ..."
LEBRON JAMES, SHORTLY AFTER SIGNING WITH MIAMI



LeBron vs. Durant, the NBA's best 1-on-1 Finals matchup since Jordan vs. Magic in 1991.

By the numbers

1-1
Heat and Thunder split two games in regular season, both winning at home.

53%
Shooting percentage for LeBron James vs. Boston. He averaged 33.6 points.

1,850
Points for Kevin Durant this season, tops in the NBA.

1,683
Points for LeBron James this season, second in NBA.

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We offer reimbursement for expenses.
For further information, please call:
Ruth Bradford
Study Coordinator
Phone: 267-426-5747

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Happy trails? Phils hoping long road trip cures woes

The mark of a good team is a winning road record. Not that anyone is calling the sub-.500 Phillies a good team, but Charlie Manuel's squad is a respectable 17-14 on the road.

Most teams play well at home. The Phillies — 12-19 at Citizens Bank Park — have played some of their worst ball in South Philadelphia.

"I can't explain it," Shane Victorino said. "It's really frustrating. I can't put my finger on it."

Well, the Phillies' bullpen has been particularly bad at home, especially Chad Qualls. Qualls was a curious signing, since when he took the mound outside of three pitcher's parks — PETCO Park, AT&T Park and Dodger Stadium last season — his ERA was a stratospheric 6.80.

"The bullpen has lost some games [in Philly]," Qualls said. "We have to pick it up."

The Phillies won't see home for two weeks and perhaps that's a good thing as the squad continues its interleague run in Minnesota.

Perhaps the good road run will continue. In 2011, the Phils' record away from home was an astounding 50-31, the best in franchise history

"Maybe we just focus better on the road," Victorino said. "It's certainly a different environment. We certainly get down to business."

ON TV TODAY

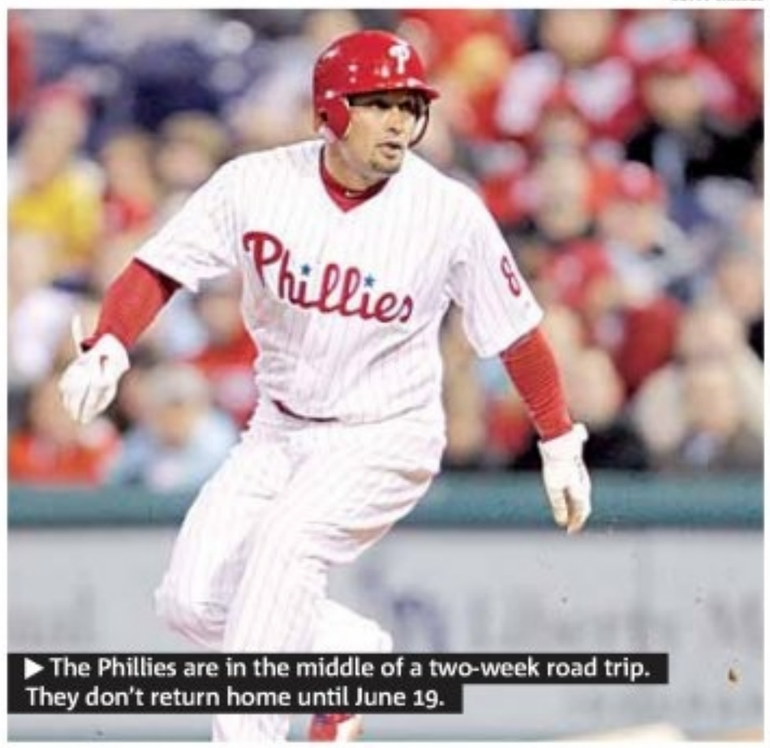
Phillies at Twins, 8:10 p.m. (CSN)

The Phillies need to string some wins together soon. It's early, but the season may hang in the balance. The Phillies were 10 games back in the loss column after Sunday's defeat in Baltimore.

"We can't get caught up in the standings," Victorino said. "We just need to win one series after another. If we take care of things and not look at the standings, we'll rise. The thing is that we have to win at home and on the road."

ED CONDRAN

GETTY IMAGES



▶ The Phillies are in the middle of a two-week road trip. They don't return home until June 19.

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